

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Delete the sub-heading "Description" before paragraph [0001] and add the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

**-- PRIORITY CLAIM**

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2004/011857, filed on 20 October 2004. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 203 16 238.2, filed 20 October 2003.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. **Field of the Invention --**

Before paragraph [0002] add the following new sub-heading:

-- 2. **Description of the Related Art --**

Before paragraph [0006] add the following new sub-heading:

**-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --**

Delete paragraph [0006].

Amend paragraph [0007] as follows:

[0007] This object is met by The the inventive upper fitting is being provided with lift-out protection by means of the a fitting arrangement indicated in claim 1. The lift-out protection acts in an outwardly inconspicuous manner because it is arranged below the fitting body, or a clamping device, that is terminated by cover caps.

Add before paragraph [0014] the following new sub-heading:

**-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --**

Add before paragraph [0017] the following new sub-heading:

**-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --**

Delete paragraph [0023].

Delete the heading "Claims" at page 6, and add the following:

-- What is claimed is: --